NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH BRECK & CO., NO. 52 NORTH MARKET STREET, (AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE.)

VOL. XVIII.] BOSTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 25, 1839. [NO. 25.

AGRICULTURAL.

For the New England Farmer.

THE BILLAUDEAU CABBAGE.

MR COLMAN—The Hon. Thomas L. Winthrop, recently placed in my hands an extract of a letter which he had received from France, and a Report made to the Royal Horticultural Society of Paris, in relation to an extraordinary Cabbage, with a request that I would translate the latter for the New England Farmer, which has been done and is enclosed.

Accompanying the letter were fine seeds,—one being the product of this remarkable new variety of cabbage, and the others of the celebrated species, called the Cavalier, which I was desired to present to some person for cultivation; that a careful experiment might be made, to ascertain whether either of the kinds could be reared in our climate, and would become a valuable acquisition to the country. They have been delivered to a gardener, who from his well known intelligence, practical skill and sincere devotion to all branches of rural economy, there cannot be a doubt but that every possible attention will be given to their culture, and the result reported to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The active part which Governor Winthrop has taken, for nearly half a century, in all the measures which have been adopted, for the advancement of agricultural intelligence, and the exalted stations he has filled, with so much credit to himself and advantage to the State, have rendered his name familiar and dear to his fellow citizens. He was one of those enlightened and patriotic gentlemen who organized the first agricultural society in Massachusetts, for the especial purpose of promoting that highly important interest, and has ever since been zealous and unremitting in his laudable efforts to render that institution effectual, for all the great and useful objects of its establishment;—and we still find him the ardent friend of a cause, which he has done so much to advance; and that the introduction of even a few seeds, which may possibly become beneficial to his countrymen, is not deemed unworthy of this venerated Nestor of New England husbandry. May his illustrious example have its just influence upon the present and rising generations,—for the CULTIVATION OF THE EARTH is the grand basis of all the other branches of industry; and no nation can be considered truly INDEPENDENT, that does not produce all the ARTICLES OF FOOD, which are indispensable, for THE SUPPORT OF THE WHOLE POPULATION.

With great respect, your
Most ob't serv't,
H. A. S. DEARBORN.

Hawthorn Cottage, Roxbury, Dec. 12, 1839.

—

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Paris to the HON. THOMAS L. WINTHROP.

"If I recollect rightly, you have a taste for Horticulture. I may mention then, that I have just now seen a most curious plant, (shown to and admired by all the savants of Paris)—a mammoth Cabbage, 10 feet high and 52 feet circumference (French measure.) The Horticultural Society of Paris appointed a commission to examine this production and to verify its dimensions: they have made a report on all points, satisfactory to the proprietors of the plant. In that report they mention also, the "Choux cavallier," otherwise called "Choux a Vache"—and also "Choux en arbre," as being the largest known in France previous to the coming of this. This *Choux cavallier* I also saw by the side of the other. I suppose even this would be considered "mammoth" in the United States, for it is 5 1-2 feet high. As they will not add perceptibly to the bulk of this letter, I enclose one seed of the mammoth cabbage, and four of the Cavalier: it may be worth while to make an experiment with them; though it may be that the mammoth is a mere *lusus naturæ:* the proprietor himself does not feel confident that its seed will produce any thing like the present plant:—as to the Cavalier there is no doubt."

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REPORT ON THE CABBAGE OF M. BILLAUDEAU,

Made to the Royal Horticultural Society of Paris, at a meeting held on the 14th of August, 1839. By a Committee composed of Messrs. Vilmorin, Jaques and Poiteau.

GENTLEMEN—Within a few days, there has been presented in Paris, to public curiosity, and those interested in the cultivation of the earth, a Cabbage, of an extraordinary character, both from its height and the number of its branches. This production must not be confounded with that marvellous fable which has excited public credulity during the last three years. Then the plant was not exhibited, and only the seeds were sold, which were to produce colossal cabbages. Those who may be apprehensive of becoming the dupes of a like kind of charlatanery, have nothing to fear in this case, for your commissioners have seen, touched and measured M. Billaudeau's cabbage, as have a great number of distinguished persons, and among them the Minister of Commerce and Agriculture. Besides, the commendable house which has possession of the Billaudeau Cabbage, would not, for any consideration, expose its reputation and its credit, by descending to a fraudulent speculation, like that which has disgraced the inventors of the Colossal Cabbage. This house is more desirous of the honor of having introduced to our cultivators a useful, new and extraordinary vegetable, than any profit which might be derived from the sale of its seeds.

The Messrs. Billaudeau have declared upon their honor, that they have never offered to sell this Cabbage or its seeds, to any person, and that whatever has been publicly said to the contrary, is utterly false. These gentlemen have been desirous of ascertaining what is the opinion of the Royal Horticultural Society, in relation to their Cabbage, that they may, in all respects, act in conformity to the views of that institution. You thus perceive, gentlemen, that the Messrs Billaudeau have acted with impartiality and in good faith.

In conformity to the directions of the Society, we went on the eighth of this month to the house of M. Billaudeau, being No. 10, in the street des Prouvoires, to see and examine the Cabbage in question and to make a report to the society thereon.

We first discovered, that this Cabbage appeared to be in the third year of its growth, and that it was covered with ripe seeds. But by information since received, from the country, we learned that it was planted in August, 1837, and transplanted in October of the same year. We also learned that it was found among other cabbages in the district of Melle, and department of Deux-Sevres, where a vast number of cabbages are cultivated as food for cattle. The proprietor of the estate, having noticed the plant, he drew the attention of M. Billaudeau, the father, to it, who bestowed special attention to its culture, and was astonished at its enormous growth. When in flower, it rose like a Colossus above the neighboring plants. It occurred to M. Billaudeau, that this plant might be reproduced from the seed, and thus become a precious acquisition in rural economy, and that from its gigantic size, it merited the examination of those persons who felt a deep interest in the culture and physiology of plants; consequently, when the seeds were ripe, he took up the plant, and placing it carefully in a wagon, had it transported to Paris, and placed in the house of his sons, the Messrs. Billaudeau, who were his successors, as dealers in seeds.

It was, therefore, in its state of fructification, that we have seen this marvellous vegetable, and to which the various public journals have already given the name of the Billaudeau Cabbage.

A Cavalier Cabbage, which is the largest hitherto known among our cultivators, placed for comparison near this, appeared a dwarf.

Since our first visit, M. Billaudeau, the father, has sent to his sons additional information, of which it is proper we should avail ourselves. In the first place, we were shown a small box of earth, which was taken from the spot where the cabbage grew. On examination it appeared to be very ordinary soil, being more sandy than argillaceous, a little gravelly, and of a greyish color. It is not more than a foot in depth, and the sub-soil is a sterile calcareous sand. Water is found at the depth of two feet and a half from the surface, and it is probably owing to its vicinity, that the superior stratum of earth owes its fertility; still, no other cabbage in the vicinity rose to a greater height than three feet; and fruit trees in this same soil, flourished but indifferently. Witnesses, worthy of credit, assured us, that the leaves of this cabbage were from five to six feet in length, which were glossy, wrinkled, and resembled much those of the Cauliflower.

The dimensions of Mr. Billaudeau's cabbage are as follows: The height is ten feet—it commences to ramify at eight inches above the neck. The roots are neither as large or extensive, as the immense volume of the plant seems to have required, which is the product of a seed and not of a sprout, as has been presumed by some persons. There are

thirty branches, the lowest of which are from eight to nine feet long, very divergent, curved, and lie upon the ground half of their length. At the epoch of its flloresence, the principal stems of each of the twenty branches, are subdivided at their summits, into twenty flowering branches, which form in the whole about six hundred clusters of seeds. The form of the silique presents no appreciable difference, from that of the Cavalier Cabbage, but the seeds of the Billaudeau Cabbage, appeared to us less round and more unequal in size.

Now, it is a question to be solved, whether the cabbage of M. Billaudeau is a new species or a variety of a species already known. It is probable that it was derived from the Branched Cabbage of Poitou, as was the Parennial Cabbage of Dauhenton. It resembles the latter more than the former, as its inferior branches commence near the ground; but it differs from both, by being as high again as the Cavalier Cabbage, while the Branched Cabbage and the Parennial Cabbage are smaller than the Cavalier Cabbage.

It is not probable that the Billaudeau Cabbage owes its prodigious dimensions to the nature of the soil, as it was found in the middle of a field of cabbages, all the individuals of which, except that, preserved their natural size; but it may be admitted that the seed, which produced it, was disposed to develop itself to an excess, while others are disposed to produce variegated plants, plants with curled leaves, double flowers, &c., without our being able to ascertain either why or how it has been done.

It may be asked if the seeds of the Billaudeau Cabbage will reproduce cabbages resembling the parent—for it is the chief point of inquiry. For an answer, we invoke experience and analogy and say, that even in our time, there have been formed several races, or varieties in certain families of vegetables, and especially in the cabbages: thus the Bruxelles Cabbage, has not always existed; there has not ever been several varieties of the Cauliflower. The Branched Balsom—the Dwarf Balsom—the Pyramidal Queen-Marguerite, and the Dwarf Queen-Marguerite have been created by modern culture, and form races, which are perpetuated by seeds, which are annually carefully managed in the same manner, that the races of domestic animals are preserved pure, by preventing crosses and affording them proper nourishment. The seeds of the double Dahlia produce more double Dahlias than those of the single Dahlia; the purple Capucine, which was produced under our observation, from the yellow Capucine, reproduced itself from its seed, and has been thus perpetuated, by our cultivators, by keeping them from admixture. The curled Parsley, which was not known in the time of La Quintinge, and the curled garden Cress, whose origin is more recent, reproduce themselves from the seed, almost as freely as the natural species: the China Bean, a dwarf kind, from the seed of the yellow, has produced, to our knowledge, a branched variety, with white beans, which has been perpetuated by the seeds. We could cite several other plants, of a more or less recent origin, which are perpetuated by the seeds, among our cultivators, by means of a careful annual attention to them to prevent crosses; but enough has been adduced, in support of our conviction, that varieties may be identically reproduced from the seed and new races formed. Now the cabbage of M. Billaudeau being a new variety, with extraordinary dimensions, in height and diameter may, according to the course of things, reproduce itself from the seeds, and be perpetuated by careful cultivation, and finally constitute a permanent race.

From the consideration that M. Billaudeau, by exposing his Cabbage to the curiosity of cultivators, and of all persons who are interested in the progress of agriculture, had the intention of enriching our cultivators of the earth with a new plant, whose product in leaves, for the nourishment of cattle, is greater than that of any other cabbage; and as this cultivator has shown his discernment, in the hope that this cabbage, (and it is not without example,) would reproduce itself from the seed, and become a precious plant in rural economy, your committee has the honor to propose, that M. Billaudeau be requested to continue his experiments, and make known the result to the Society, and that this report be inserted in your *Annales.*

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The Society approves the present report, and adopts its conclusions.

Signed, HERICORT De THURY, *President.*

Soulange Bodin, *Sec'ry General.*
Poiteau, *Rapporteur.*

TREE CORN.

We never had much faith in the celebrated "China Tree Corn," that it would be of any great acquisition to the farmers of New England, and fearing it might be a 'humbug,' did not publish Grant Thorburn's first account of it, until we were requested to do it, after it had appeared in most of the papers of the country.

It was our intention to have no part in selling it, until we had continual calls for the article, and found, as the people would have it, it would be necessary for us to keep it. We therefore published Mr Thorburn's account, in the N. E. Farmer, vol. xvii. page 155, and procured some of the corn. As we did not have confidence in it, we added to the article published the following—"*Remarks.*—We have some of this corn for sale at the N. E. Farmer office, but as we know no more about it than what is contained in the above statement, every purchaser must take it on his own responsibility.—J. B."—As we supposed the quantity for sale would be very small, our first order was moderate: it was repeated for larger quantities. Erroneous accounts we think have been given to the public of the quantity sold in this city and other places.

We have seen much of this corn growing in various parts of the country, and have had accounts from many individuals since their corn was harvested, and find that ninety in a hundred give sentence against it. There are, however, some who give their testimony in favor of it—not so much on account of its being an early corn, (for such is not the fact,) but as being valuable for fodder. Dr Rowland Green, of Mansfield, has cultivated it with some care and attention, and at our request, has given us an account of it, which we give below.—We have also received a letter from Mr Thorburn, together with an article from the Journal of Commerce, which we also publish. We do not give place to these communications because we believe the corn will be profitable for New England, but that Mr Thorburn may have a chance to appear before the public with statements to balance some of the unfavorable accounts which have appeared against him and his corn.

We do not understand how it is that the corn multiplied to such an extent after his first account of it—and should like to have him show how it was that so much of it appeared in market.

The box of corn referred to in Thorburn's letter, has been received, and may be examined by any who may take the trouble to call at our place of business. J. B.

—

Mr Breck—Dear Sir—Agreeable to your request, I send you a particular account of my success in the culture of the Chinese Corn. A friend in Newton gave me a small ear (said to be early and productive,) which on the first of May last, I planted on ten rods of good land, well manured. The rows were four and a half feet apart and the hills about three feet asunder, and one, two, or three corns placed in each hill. It appeared not to vegetate so soon as my other corn, and when it was up I put round each hill, say half a pint of dry ashes. In about three weeks it appeared so slender and bad, that to avoid a total failure of a crop of some kind, I planted field beans in every hill.—As the warmth of the season increased, the corn grew, and finally to the height of 8 or 9 feet, producing many offsets or suckers, which grew to the height of 6 or 7 feet. Before the 10th of August, ears began to appear on the suckers, but apprehending that they could not ripen, I cut them all off, affording much fodder. It was late in ripening, and was harvested in the beginning of October. There were two or three ears on each stalk, but only one or two ripened. The produce was six bushels of ears, and as near as I could judge, at the rate of from 45 to 50 bushels to the acre. The produce of one stalk was two large full ears, (one 8 1-2 and the other 9 1-2 inches in length,) producing 1175 well ripened corns.

The corn suffered very much from the strong wind on the 31st of July. As to the beans, they suffered much from the shade of the corn, but produced a good crop.

This corn requires a long and warm season and rich land, to be productive. From its numerous offsets and foliage, it appears to be a good kind to plant in drills, for soiling cattle, a method highly approved by those who have tried the experiment.

This corn has been improperly called the "Tree Corn," which I have, and is a great natural curiosity, but not productive.

Respectfully, your friend,

R. GREEN.

—

Astoria, L. I., Dec. 6th, 1839.

Messrs Breck & Co.—*Gentlemen:*—I observed in your Farmer of the 27th Nov., a favorable notice of the Chinese Tree Corn. I send you per steamboat to-day a small box containing 34 ears of said corn, of my own raising.

You will observe a marked difference in the appearance of the ears: this is one of its peculiarities. My seed was all from ears having the same appearance as one you will find in the box having the husks on it. I often found in the same hill, ears having all these different appearances.

I also send by this day's mail, the *Journal of Commerce:* in it you will find a second letter from the same Mr Roberts. His experience in the corn exactly corresponds with my own. I wish you could give this letter a place in the Farmer.

This corn will yet be an important article among farmers, and it is a pity it should be strangled in its birth:—besides I have suffered a great deal of

unmerited abuse, and I think it but fair that both sides of the question should be heard. Your journal, Buel's Cultivator and the Yankee Farmer, are the only agricultural periodicals I have met with, that have shown themselves impartial. Most of them took sides against the corn, and never published an article per contra, though they met them in many newspapers and journals, from the pens of disinterested correspondents.

Near Cleveland, Ohio, a field of the China corn was examined by a committee from the Horticultural Society of that county; their opinion was that it would yield one hundred and twenty bushels of shelled corn to the acre. It is also an early corn. I think it was on the 12th of Sept. the Society held their fair at Boston: then I sent a box of my Chinese corn, fully ripe, to the fair. We have earlier sorts to be sure, but they are generally so small in the ears as not to be worth cultivating for a crop.—And that the grains from which this corn was first cultivated on this Island were found in a box of tea, is as true as that Bonaparte crossed the Alps, though we never saw him.

Yours, sincerely,

GRANT THORBURN.

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The following is the article from the Journal of Commerce, alluded to in the above letter:

From the Baltimore American Farmer of Oct. 9.

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CHINA TREE CORN.

There are few subjects on which such opposite opinions have been formed and expressed, as there have been in regard to this corn. Whilst in some places it is denounced as a humbug and a cheat, in others it is declared to be a valuable and prolific variety, and is considered worthy the attention of the farmer. We have heretofore published communications highly favorable to it, from Mr Sangston and Dr Muse, and we present a second one this week from the pen of Ed. P. Roberts, Esq., who has felt it due to Mr Thorburn to give this second testimony in his favor. We frequently hear of disappointments in the result of planting seeds, which in many cases are produced no doubt from unsuitable location, or other similar circumstances, but there is little doubt are as often from the want of genuineness in the seed. As we are anxious to do justice to every one, we most cheerfully give place to the communication of Mr R.

J. S. Skinner, Esq.—Dear Sir—In publishing my note on the subject of the Chinese Tree Corn, of the 31st of July last, you appended a note from a correspondent of Fairfax county, Virginia, who remarks, that he had "planted two ears of the Chinese Tree Corn upon land well manured and limed—the result will prove it absolutely worthless, and more like a rush than a tree."

I have read also in your paper an article from that excellent paper, "The Yankee Farmer," whose editor affirms that "the China Corn is a complete deception practised upon the credulous and confiding public," and adds with great severity—and if the Chinese Tree Corn was the worthless thing represented, with equal justice,—that the author of the deception would be entitled to the severest reprehension. The same article contains the declaration of Mr Howard, the able conductor of the Zanesville Gazette, that it was not an early corn, and that some farmers "observe that it will require two years to mature this corn."

I have no doubt that each of those gentlemen have spoken conscientiously upon this subject, and I am equally certain, from the result of my own experiment, that they have been deceived in the variety of corn they have purchased as the Chinese Tree Corn; for it is impossible that results so different to my own, could, under any other circumstances have occurred.

As I promised you in my former note that "in the fall I would measure my little patch, and give you a faithful account of its yield," I now proceed to redeem that pledge, and I do it with the more cheerfulness, as I conceive it but an act of justice due to Mr Thorburn, that those at least with whom his corn has succeeded well, should speak of it as it deserves, in order that so far as their moral influence may go, his name may be rescued from the fate of those who practise deception either upon private individuals or the public.

With these explanatory remarks, I will state its yield, and such other characteristic traits as it strikes me to possess.

My patch was planted on a plot of ground in my garden, 32 by 23 feet in dimensions, making 736 square feet. The soil was a deep rich loam, which, as I described to you, I highly manured. It had the benefit of good culture, and its working was always done at the right time. On the 15th of September, I gathered and housed my little crop, consisting of 254 good ears, rejecting all the nubbies. While the corn was in the roasting ear state, as I observed in my former note, I pulled 24 good ears. If then I add these to those I pulled on the 15th of September, it gives the product of 268 ears on 736 square feet of ground, and as there are 43,560 sq. feet in an acre, the yield, calculating that each ear will shell half a pint of corn, was at the rate of 128 33-64 bushels per acre. But this is far short of the actual yield, as one of my cows found her way into my garden on the night of the 25th of August, and destroyed a considerable quantity. Besides this, my chickens depredated largely upon it. Having spoken of its yield, I will proceed to state its peculiar traits of character.

Its suckers branch out from the root, and after arriving at maturity, it is difficult to distinguish them from the main stalks, being so nearly equal in size, and so alike in appearance.

The stalks and suckers were from 9 to 11 feet high; not so thick as may be supposed from the number of suckers which were thrown out and permitted to grow, as the larger varieties of field corn, which are generally carefully suckered. From actual measurement, however, I can state that the suckers and stalks in my patch were from 3 3-10 to 4 1-10 inches in circumference, measured four inches from the ground. I planted but two grains of corn in each hill, and yet those hills had on them 10, 14, and in one instance 19 good sized ears each.

The ears have 10 rows of grain on them, are from 8 to 11 inches long, of medium thickness;—the grain a beautiful pearly white flint, of great specific gravity, and from the sweetness of the roasting ears which we cooked, I have no doubt will prove an excellent meal corn, and be found to possess a very large quantity of saccharine matter. It makes, as may be presumed, a very large quantity of fodder; and on that account is desirable to a very great portion of corn planters, most of whom rely in a measure upon their cornfields to furnish winter provender for their stock.

So far from its being a late corn, and requiring two seasons to mature it, I consider it an early corn, which opinion is borne out by the fact of my having gathered and housed mine on the 15th of September, a period when much other corn is scarcely out of the milky state.

I have given the result of my own experience above, and will add, that two of my friends who made experiments with it also, speak in high terms of its productiveness. Besides these gentlemen, I observe in your paper that Dr Muse and Mr Sangston, of the eastern shore of this state, are well pleased with their experiments.

I have thus discharged a duty which I owe to Mr Thorburn, and will remark, that in doing so I have no possible interest, either of a pecuniary nature, or of feeling, to subserve. He is a gentleman that I know not except by reputation. I have never had the slightest correspondence with him; and in all human probability never will. But it is sufficient for me to know that he is a distinguished seedsman, and that he is the original of Laurie Todd, to make me feel solicitous about his fame, and willing, whenever that fame may be assailed with unmerited obloquy, to take up the gauntlet, couch a lance, and run the hazards of a tourney in his defence.

I will conclude this, perhaps uninteresting letter, by stating, that I am so well pleased with the Chinese Tree Corn, that I have determined to plant no other kind next season as a crop corn.

Respectfully, your ob't serv't,

Edward P. Roberts.

Mulberry Grove, Oct. 1, 1839.

Preservation of Vegetables.—In several European countries, particularly in the north, roots of all kinds are preserved merely by secluding them entirely from air, heat and water; this is done by digging deep ditches in a dry soil upon a spot a little elevated, and depositing in them the roots, which are afterwards covered over with a layer of earth of sufficient thickness to prevent them from suffering by the frost; over the whole is then laid a bed of straw, broom or fern; in order to protect them from rain and from the water of melting snows which might filtrate through into the pit.

Roots to keep well, must have their surfaces entirely free from moisture before being thus buried.

The roots have in themselves a preserving principle, which does not exist in a dead plant or one that has terminated its period of vegetation: they have as yet lived but a portion of their vegetable life: they have not formed the seeds, which secure the continuance of their species; and to fulfil this great design of nature, they profit by every circumstance which can favor and confirm their vegetation; but when placed for a time beyond the action of air, water, and heat, their organs remain at rest till again excited by the presence of these powerful agents.

As dead bodies do not retain this animating principle, the energies of which are only suspended in roots, grains, &c. during the winter, so they suffer decomposition, though less rapidly, from the contact of air, heat, and water.

In the way of which I have just spoken, beets, carrots, potatoes, and many other vegetables may be preserved uninjured till summer.

A very simple method of preserving them, at least free from decomposition, is, to heap them up in piles upon a very dry soil, and then to cover them upon all sides with straw enough to protect them from rain and frost; in England, this is esteemed the best method of keeping turnips.—*Chaptal.*

From the Farmer's Monthly Visitor.

THE BROWSING OF SHEEP DURING THE CONTINUANCE OF SNOW.

Two of the most successful wool growers within the knowledge of the writer are Stephen Sibley and Joseph Barnard, Esquires, living in the immediate neighborhood of each other in the adjoining town of Hopkinton. These gentlemen, from the choice flocks which they possessed, have been able to sell their wool at their own doors at high prices, when the ordinary wool could hardly be disposed of at any price. Mr Sibley has a mountain pasture, extending over the back of old Kearsage, which he has recently cleared: from ten acres of it the last season he had a fine crop of rye, which he carted fifteen miles in the straw to his own homestead.

Below is presented a letter from Mr Sibley, which we find in a Maine agricultural paper published three years ago, and in which he describes at length his method of feeding sheep on browse in the winter. We have no recollection of before having seen this letter, although we have had a similar description from the mouth of Mr Sibley. This gentleman may be relied on as a safe adviser, because he has had many years' successful practice in the rearing and keeping of sheep. His system of browsing, we believe, is continued at the present time. His letter contains valuable hints to wool-growers.

Hopkinton, N. H., Oct. 25, 1835.

My Dear Sir:—On the return of your uncle I was told you wished to know my method of browsing sheep. * * As soon as the ground is covered with snow I browse my sheep daily. I go to the woods and make one or more temporary cribs by placing two poles parallel 18 or 24 inches apart, upon two handfuls of brush or billets of wood. Between the poles I place or set my boughs of hemlock or hard pine—(probably spruce, fir, or cedar will do as well)—thrusting the butt ends into the snow and having them lean the same way. I extend my cribs till they well accommodate the number of sheep I wish to feed. I then tread down the snow about the cribs so that sheep can easily pass by those that have reached the browse and are feeding. I then turn my flock to the cribs, and my work is done. In the latter part of the winter, when the snow is sufficiently hard to bear up the sheep, I thrust the boughs, when cut off, into the stiff snow, in rows without poles, but so close together as to prevent the sheep passing through them.

Three winters ago when I began to browse my sheep, I cut my browse and threw it about at random; but I soon found my sheep too nice to feed in that slovenly manner. They would run over it and leave it. I took the hint of arranging in the way I have mentioned, from nature, for I have observed where boughs pendent from the trees were sufficiently low to be reached by the sheep, they would go directly to them and feed more freely than in any other way. Sheep are not pleased with having their food touched even by the hand of man.

The advantage of browsing sheep is no longer doubted here. It gives them exercise, fresh air and green food during the whole winter. I drive my sheep in flocks of from fifty to one hundred, nearly a mile every day, unless the weather is very tempestuous, and they heed cold weather as much as the deer or moose that range about the White Mountains.

A farmer in this town wintered about seventy-five sheep wholly on browse and a gill of corn a day to each. His flock were not at the barn during the winter, and they come out of the woods in the spring in fine order. He was fortunate with his lambs that season, and the following fall sold his wethers to the butcher for four dollars a head. I believe he had a slight covering to protect his sheep from storms. I give no grain of any kind to my sheep, except to my lambs the first winter, or to a few old ones that may be feeble; to these I give at the rate of a quart daily to twentyfive. To my breeding ewes I give half a gill a day for three or four weeks before they yean. I keep my stalls dry and airy, and daily brush every straw they leave from their cribs. For the last three winters I have wintered 274, 367, and 275, and have lost but two during the three winters. My breeding ewes last winter numbered 127, of which seven proved barren. I had two lambs killed by a fox—two died by taking cold after castration—one from being trod upon when very young, and one came too feeble to live, and died—loss in all, six. I have since disposed of five, and my lambs now number 109; and a more plump, healthy, and beautiful flock I think cannot be found in New England.

I have lately sold 68 of my old sheep, and my whole flock now numbers 311. I have brought up my flock mostly from Merino ewes, and they are now from full blood Saxony to those made nearly so by breeding from the finest Saxony bucks for nine years. My fleeces averaged 2 lbs. 6 oz. and sold at 75 cents. My store sheep sell from 3 to 10 dollars a head. Yours, &c.

STEPHEN SIBLEY.

P. S.—Since the foregoing article was put in type, Mr Barnard has exhibited at our office a beautiful silver medal of the New York American Institute with this inscription on one side:

"*Awarded to Barnard and Sibley, for the best American Wool,* 1838."

The other side contains the arms of the State of New York, surmounted with the words "*American Institute.*"

It is much to the credit of Messrs Barnard and Sibley, and honorable to the Granite State, that these gentlemen should have exceeded the wool-growers of any other State in the quality of their wool; that they should give to our State the name of producing, at the extensive exhibition of the New York American Institute—which has become an Institute for the whole United States—"*the best American wool.*"

During the year 1837, Mr Sibley disposed of about one hundred and fifty of his fine wooled sheep for exportation to Buenos Ayres in South America, some of which were sold after their arrival as high as seventy dollars each. These sheep were about 7-8 Saxony blood, crossed on fine wooled Merino: they were sold at a time of great depression in the price of sheep in June, when the prospect for wool was poor indeed. Mr S. obtained five and a half dollars for the unsheared, and four dollars each for the sheared sheep. His finest wool that year was sold at fifty cents the pound.

BENEFIT OF LIMING AND GREEN MANURING WITH PEAS.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Register.

Beaufort Co., N. C., Oct. 11, 1839.

I learn by your communication to me some time since, that it is your wish that I should let you know my plan of liming, and also that I would communicate the same for the Register. I would cheerfully do so, but that I am a plain, and fain would be a practical farmer, and have never written any thing of the kind. But, however, for the sake of being of any benefit to agriculture, if any benefit may be derived from the few hints that I may advance, I will now attempt to comply as far as my feeble efforts are capable of doing.

When I took possession of my farm, I found it in a very poor and worn out state, so much so that I became almost discouraged, and would have emigrated to some other one, had I the means to have done so without making a sacrifice; and not willing for that, I came to the conclusion that I would remain where I was, and see what I could do by way of improving my poor and worn out land, which I commenced by raking and scraping all the manure I could fall in with; and coming across a treatise in some one of your volumes upon liming, I fell upon that to see what I could do with it. The first part or cut of my field that I commenced liming, was of a kind of stiff and sour soil, subject to almost (I may say) every kind of insect; and it was with great difficulty I could get corn to stand on it. But as soon as I commenced liming I found that there was a great difference in the nature of the soil as well as the quantity of the grain, which induced me to procure all the shells I could get, and put them upon my land; and I can now say that I have improved my land, from liming and other manures, of which lime is the prominent part, from 25 to 50 per cent. My plan is to burn the shells just so that they will crumble.

I prefer putting them out on the land in the spring, say the last of March, upon land that I intend putting in corn; spreading the lime broadcast; and about the last of June or by the first of July, I sow the same land in peas, which is the last working I give my corn. As soon as the corn will do, I take the fodder off. As soon as that is got through with, I proceed to weed all down between the rows, peas and every other vegetation, which as soon as done, I proceed to gather the corn and sow wheat upon the same, taking care to run a furrow each side of the ridge in the row with a single horse plough before sowing, so as to cover the ridge up as near as possible; the balance of the row I break up with the same plough. But before I sow my wheat, I soak the quantity I want for seed in strong lime water, say 24 to 36 hours; after which I strain it through a basket or colander, and as soon as that is done, I roll it in slacked lime until every grain is perfectly saturated with lime, so that it parts, in which state I let it go to the ground, taking care that the seedsman uses a little grease of some kind on his hands to prevent the lime from injuring them. This process I think, and am certain, is a preventive from the smut, and putting it on limed land I think is an obstruction against the rust, or at least I have not been troubled with either since I tried the soaking and liming. The quantity of lime I generally put on my land is from 40 to 50 bushels to the acre, afterwards sowing down in peas as above stated; and I can say this year that I never was more gratified; for I never saw a more flourishing crop of wheat on the ground in all life, (and my neighbors certified to what I now say,) for I raised 25 bushels to the one sowed; and I had the same piece of ground in wheat three years ago, and I am certain I did not raise ten to one.

A FRIEND TO AGRICULTURE.

For the New England Farmer.

INDIAN CORN.

Being somewhat of an old man, and having been engaged in farming nearly all my life, I purpose, as I have time, and feel inclined, to occasionally in the course of the present winter, (in such language as my mother learned me, having not much education, the early part of my life having passed in the time of the revolutionary war, when schools were few and far between, and what there were, none of the best,) offer you some remarks on that important subject. And first on Indian Corn.

Some years ago, a writer in the New England Farmer stated, that the roots of corn had been found, several, if my recollection is right, three or four feet below the surface. This assertion, according to my observations for fifty years, is incorrect. The roots found so deep in the soil must have been the roots of some other plant, for I believe that no observing, practical farmer will admit, or believe, that the roots of corn ever penetrate below where the soil has been loosened by the plough. So far from the roots of corn penetrating deep into the soil, the reverse is the fact, and a careful examiner will find all the principal roots near the surface, hence the reason that corn is an exhausting crop.

A writer in the Yankee Farmer of the 13th of April last, over the signature of "Philo," and dated at Portland, has attacked a report of the Agricultural Committee of Massachusetts, for recommending the spreading of compost manure and harrowing it in, and has said something about "yearling farmers," and burying manure deep, and how old errors and habits adhere to people. Now I suspect that Philo is not so much as a yearling farmer —certainly not a very observing one. Philo says that perhaps he may get a better crop the first year, that is, by not ploughing the manure in; "but this is not the true theory of farming, to get one crop and exhaust the land with that." I understand that Philo means to say, that it is an old practice to spread the manure and not plough it in, but to harrow it in. The old practice was, to plough in manure, and it must be ploughed in as soon as it was spread, because it would dry and injure it—(I mean green manure.) This practice was found by experiment to be a wrong one, because covering manure so deep, when in a cold state, it did not come to that state to benefit the corn so soon as when left on or nearer the surface. If I were to plough in my green manure, I should choose to have it spread and lay at least two fair days in the sun, before ploughing: it will thus get into a state to benefit the crop much sooner than when ploughed in cold.

Within a few years much has been said, and some published, in favor of ploughing in manure, which looks too much like theory. We, or rather I, hear nothing of experiment. Now one grain of experience is worth a pound of theory. My practice has been, generally, for forty years, to spread my manure and harrow it in, and I get better crops of corn, and my next succeeding crops, are better than when the manure was ploughed in, and my land has been improving in proportion to the quantity of manure applied, and is now worth double for grass that it was forty years ago. Many years ago, I knew a farmer who, when he was going to plough grass land, for a crop of corn, first spread his manure on the grass and turned it under the furrow, and I never knew him to raise a large crop of corn. I have known some good farmers, who have tried spreading compost and harrowing it in, and found it much superior to any other way of applying manure for a crop of corn. The last season I planted a field of green sward, a part of which was ploughed in the fall—another part in the spring —it was harrowed lengthwise of the furrows, manure spread on, and then harrowed again. As experiment, and to test the new mode, the manure was spread on to about six rows before ploughing, and turned under the sod. The result was, on that ploughed in the fall, the corn was the best; that ploughed in the spring and the manure spread after ploughing, next best; and where the manure was spread on the grass and ploughed in, about half equal to the others, and also later.

You may probably hear from me again on this subject, before long. A FARMER.

Dec. 16, 1839.

MILKING.

That a material loss is sustained by the dairyman, from the manner in which the process of milking is usually performed, can scarcely be questioned by one who has paid attention to the manner in which milk is produced, and the nature of that fluid. In milk, the most valuable part is the lightest, as we see from the cream rising to the surface of the vessel; and it is reasonable to suppose that the same relative position is maintained in the udder as in the pan or pail, that is, the cream or richest part is in the highest part of the lacteal vessels, and of course is the last to be extracted in milking. When therefore, this operation is carelessly or imperfectly performed, or in other words, the cow is "milked clean," the best part is left in the udder, and lost to the dairy. It may be said, however, that what is left at one time, is obtained at the next milking, and is not, therefore, lost; but it must be remembered, that the process of absorption is constantly going on, and that by leaving the richest part for this action of the vessels it is irrecoverably lost; and besides the more completely the vessels are emptied, the greater the action will be. All dairymen are aware of the fact, that to dry a cow, nothing more is necessary than to only drain her udder at each successive milking. The secretion of the milk will cease, and the absorbents become active in proportion as the milk left incites them, until none will be left; and this result, in a greater or less degree, always ensues where the milk is not fully extracted. This also explains why a cow milked three times a day, will give more milk in the twentyfour hours, than when milked only twice.

In a large dairy, "*dripling*" or stripling the cows, after they have been milked in the usual manner, is practiced, and with evident profit, as the milk thus obtained is very nearly pure cream. A writer in the Farmer's Magazine thus describes the manner in which this last draining of the udder should be performed:

"The milker should be instructed to milk as fast as his strength will allow; and the idle or slow milker I would at once discard from this branch of the dairy. When he has obtained all the milk he can by the common method, he should be required to press moderately with his left hand the upper, and every part of the udder so as to force downwards all the milk that may be remaining in the smaller or higher milk carrying tubes; and as it is pressed into the receptacle and teat he should milk it out with his right hand, until the whole is completely discharged. The same plan must be pursued with the remaining quarters of the udder. It must not be supposed that this method will be distressing to the animal; on the contrary, her quietness during the process, is a satisfactory indication that it occasions no pain, but rather an agreeable sensation. This plan, though effectual in keeping up the cow to her full quantity of milk, will not, generally speaking, take more additional time than a minute over the old mode of milking, and persevering in this plan, all the milk will be obtained, the richest, as well as the thinnest of course."

It is by attention to minute things, that most of the profits of the farmer are realized, and we are confident that by attention to this point, non-essential as it may at first appear, the dairyman would find that an important addition would be made to the sum total of his annual profit.—*Genesee Farmer.*

WATERING CATTLE IN WINTER.

Perhaps it would excite the surprise of many of our readers, should we assert that cattle generally suffer more from thirst in winter than during the heat of summer. Yet there is strong reason to believe that this is to a great extent the case. Cattle whose winter food consists entirely of hay, straw, and other dry materials, need a plentiful and frequent supply of pure fresh water. This many do not obtain, as nearly all running streams are covered with ice, and cattle are obliged to wander a considerable distance from the yard to the watering place, through deep snows or over a slippery path, exposed to the annoyance of dogs, or to be gored by other cattle, and rather than endure this, they often suffer much from a want of water. It has been ascertained that a bullock who has water at command, will drink it eight times a day. It should always, therefore, be of easy access to cattle at all times; and not on a distant part of the farm, or in the open road, so that in order that your cattle may help themselves to it, you are obliged to leave your gate open, or barn-yard bars down, and thus your yard is thronged with vagrant colts and other ill-bred animals, who take possession of whatever fodder they can lay their mouths upon, and pay no regard to the rights of *meum* and *tuum*. Dr Anderson says that he knew a man who became very rich by being *great* in *little* matters, that is, attending carefully to things which other men consider of too little consequence to claim their notice; and this man always made it a point to see that his cattle, particularly his milch cows, should have a constant supply of pure water.—*Farmers' Cabinet.*

Soiling Cattle.—Soiling is the feeding of cattle either in the barn or yard, through the summer, with new mown grass or roots. The following are some of its advantages over pasturing—1. A spot of ground which, when pastured upon will yield sufficient food for only two head, will maintain five head of cattle in one stable, if the vegetables be given in proper order —2. The stall feeding yields at least three times the quantity of manure from the same number of cattle.—3. The cattle used to stall feeding will yield a much greater quantity of milk, and fatten faster than when they go to the field.—4. They are less subject to accident—do not suffer so much from heat, flies and insects—on the contrary, if every thing be properly managed, they will remain in a state of constant health and vigor.—*Von Thaer.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Boston, Wednesday, December 25, 1839.

SILK CONVENTION AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

The cultivators and producers of silk, and all persons interested in the production of silk in our country, were invited by circulars from the National Silk Society, to attend a convention in Washington, the seat of government, on the 11th day of December, this current year, with a view to consult on this great subject of national interest, to collect and combine whatever practical information could be obtained in the case, and to devise means of diffusing and extending this information throughout the whole country.

The convention met accordingly in respectable numbers; and it was found on calling the roll that, besides the District of Columbia, fourteen States were represented. The convention united with the American Silk Society and proceeded with great spirit in the business of their meeting.

The American Silk Society had proffered several premiums, amounting in the whole to five hundred and fifty dollars, to be awarded to the person who should produce the largest amount of reeled silk—to the person who should produce the largest amount upon one quarter of an acre—to the person who should produce the best specimen of silk cloth—to the person who should produce the best pound of manufactured sewing silk, and some other objects; for all which claimants appeared; and when the awards are known, we shall announce them.

The specimens of raw and manufactured silk, both cloths and sewings, were of the most beautiful description; not surpassed by any ever imported into the country. They demonstrated to the perfect conviction of every observer, that it may be done, and that there is nothing in our soil, climate, natural or political condition, to prevent our producing the article in perfection, and to an amount sufficient not only to supply our own domestic wants, but to make it a prominent and profitable article of export.

On the evening of the twelfth, many valuable details drawn from actual experiment, were given; and a highly intelligent and respectable gentleman from New Jersey, the Rev. D. V. McLean, went into a full account of an experiment he himself had made the last year, with a view of ascertaining, with all the exactness that he could apply, what amount of silk could be produced upon an acre, and at what expense of time and labor. The experiment was conducted with such minute accuracy and fidelity as to leave no doubt of a similar result under similar circumstances in any other case. The result was not so extraordinary or extravagant as many persons have indulged themselves in believing that it would be; but it was sufficient to establish the great point, that no agricultural production whatever, capable of being raised in any part of the country, would yield a more ample remuneration for the labor and capital required. The cost of producing the silk, we learnt, in a reeled state, would not exceed at the current prices of labor in Freehold, N. J., about seventy miles from New York and twenty miles from the line of the railroad to Philadelphia, two dollars and twentyfive cents per lb.; and at the present prices of the raw article, six dollars per pound, it would leave a profit per acre of one hundred and eighty dollars; or at four dollars and a half per pound, a profit of one hundred and eight dollars. In this calculation of expense, however, as we understood, are to be included only the cost of labor employed; and no charge is made for trees, expense of cocoonery, or rent of land. These every one must estimate for himself.

The amount in this case produced from one quarter of an acre was twelve pounds, making no allowance for many worms that were destroyed by falling from the shelves of the cocoonery, and for waste silk, which, it was thought, might have swelled the amount one pound, or have made it equal to fiftytwo pounds per acre. It was determined by Mr McLean, and very much to his honor, to make none but the most exact statements—statements on which the public might confidently rely—not warped by conjecture nor exaggerated through vanity or selfishness. The trees used in this experiment were the Morus Multicaulis; and they were planted in the form of roots, cuttings, and buds, in the month of April; and the feeding of the worms and reeling of the silk occupied three hands about twelve weeks. We state these points as well as we can from recollection. The report of the experiment in full is given in the last number of the Journal of the American Silk Society, and will be transferred entire to our columns. We know, as well from the manner in which it is drawn up as from the important results which it discloses, that it will be perused with the highest interest, and by every friend to domestic industry, with an equal gratification.

The experiments of Mr Aaron Clapp, of Hartford, Ct. who likewise exhibited a magnificent sample of raw and manufactured silk, lead to the same results as to the cost of production. So do those of Mr Timothy Smith, of Amherst, Mass., who was likewise present with as beautiful samples of raw and manufactured sewing silk, done up in the neatest manner. Mr Smith is well known among us as an experienced hand; and a successful competitor for premiums, having already had, we believe, several silk tassels and ribbons tied round his neck by the Hampshire Agricultural Society. We wish he may go on, while he is thus benefiting his fellow citizens and the country, with an equal and increased success, until he gets premiums enough to clothe him, if he chooses to wear it, in silken and flowing robes as brilliant and magnificent as those worn by the sovereign of the Celestial Empire or the Grand Seignior of Persia. Mr Smith has stated again and again, that the bounty offered by the State of Massachusetts, amounting on silk manufactured into sewings to two dollars on every pound produced, is, according to his experience, more than sufficient to pay the cost of production.

The Society held repeated sessions until the evening of the twelfth, when a great meeting was held in the Representatives' chamber at the Capitol, where the silk productions were exhibited, and presented a spectacle which quickened most powerfully the circulations in every patriotic heart, and kindled brilliant and surprising, but we believe not delusive visions of the future, in the minds of all who feel a strong interest in the growing prosperity of the country.

The notice of the meeting was imperfect, owing to the lateness of the hour when it was ascertained the hall could be obtained; but the attendance was full. The attendance of ladies added much to the interest of the occasion; and the rustling of their dresses and the gay brilliancy of their ribbons, showed by what right they took an interest in the productions of these humble operatives, whose cast-off garments constituted some of the brightest adornments of regal pride and glory. The interest felt in the occasion was strong, and we are satisfied gathered a stronger impulse than it ever had before in the encouragement and progress of this great patriotic, and, when all its extended influences upon the humbler classes of the community to whom it will give almost without any capital but health and hands, the means of comfortable support, are considered, we may say not only *political*, but *moral* enterprise.

After resolutions prepared by the Executive Committee were introduced, affirming the practicableness and the profit of the silk culture, and the importance of the production as a source of national wealth, it was assigned to the Rev. Mr McLean, above named, to open the discussion. He occupied the undivided attention of the meeting in a speech of about one hour and a half, of remarkable ability and power. Of this speech we shall furnish a sketch in a future number; and indulge the hope that we may presently have it *in extenso* from the author himself, in the pages of the Silk Journal, the Society having requested a copy. He was followed by other gentlemen, who took different views of this subject, and showed its various bearings upon morals, and domestic comfort and competence.

The meeting was then adjourned to Friday morning, when it is understood the premiums will be awarded, and the proposals for future competition announced.

The House of Representatives had not yet been organized. It had been in the course of the day a scene of excessive turbulence and violent and angry collisions. It was with the deepest and most painful anxiety for the honor of the country and the permanence of its free institutions, that we witnessed these excitements, approaching at times a point of explosion which threatened consequences whose limit no sagacity could foresee, and which foreboded nothing but unmingled evil. May Heaven save the country from these horrible results of party strife.—It was, therefore, doubly refreshing to retire from scenes of turbulence so unworthy and alarming, to an assembly in the same hall, moving on in undisturbed harmony and good will, and with a common and single purpose, to advancement of objects of domestic competence and comfort and of national wealth and prosperity. H. C.

Dec. 13, 1839.

DILLINGHAM POTATOES.

We have been favored by John Benson, Esq. with a sample of these potatoes, and can recommend them as most excellent. They are highly farinaceous and of agreeable flavor. He has them for sale at his store, head of Market wharf, and those who are particular in their preferences in regard to a vegetable of such universal use and indispensable necessity, will not be disappointed in buying these.

It is hardly practicable to raise potatoes of the best quality in our old and highly manured soils, and subject as we are to severe droughts. Potatoes in order to be first rate in quality, require a virgin soil, a deep rich mould, and a moist cool climate. These Dillingham potatoes come, we believe, from Nova Scotia, or a remote part of Maine, where both the soil and the climate are favorable.

A limestone soil is likewise particularly congenial to the growth and quality of potatoes; and instances of the result are so numerous within our knowledge, we are satisfied that there are few cases in which the quality of potatoes would fail to be greatly benefited by the application of half a gill of gypsum placed on the seed in the hill at the time of planting.

Messrs Breck & Co. have likewise imported for sale, both this season and the last, potatoes from Eastport, Me. called the White Blue Noses, which in point of quality, in our opinion cannot be exceeded. H. C.

☞A notice of Mr Child's "Treatise on the Culture of the Beet and Manufacture of Beet Sugar," now in the press, will be given in our next.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Dec. 23, 1839.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—We quote First quality, $6 50. Second quality, $6 00 a $6 25. Third quality, $4 50 a $5 75.

Barrelling Cattle.—Mess $5 50; No. 1 $5 00.

Cows and Calves.—We notice the following sales $25, $33, $42, and $48.

Sheep.—We did not learn the prices.

Swine.—A small lot were sold to peddle at 4 1-4; the remainder to close at 3 1-2. At retail from 4 to 6.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, week ending December 22.

Dec., 1839.		7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	16	30	31	30	N.
Tuesday,	17	24	28	22	N.
Wednesday,	18	10	16	14	N.
Thursday,	19	4	18	10	N.
Friday,	20	6	15	13	W.
Saturday,	21	12	24	22	W.
Sunday,	22	16	27	32	N.

SPLENDID BULBOUS FLOWER ROOTS.

Just received by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., from Holland, a very large and well selected assortment of Dutch Bulbous Roots, among which are the following:—

Hyacinths—Double white, double white with red and purple eyes, double rosy, double red, dark blue, light blue and yellow, single white, white with red and purple eye, rosy, pink, red, light and dark blue, yellow and variegated comprising 150 varieties of choice named sorts.

Tulips—Fine late named sorts, fine double do., mixed single, mixed double, single and double Van Throll for forcing, Parrots, &c. &c.

Crown Imperials—Double red and yellow, single red and yellow, striped leaves, &c.

Polyanthus Narcissus—White, yellow, white with yellow and citron cups, and citron with yellow cups.

Narcissus—Orange Phœnix, Sulphur Phœnix, Incomparable, Van Sion, and Tratus cantus, with double flowers; Trumpet major, Sulphur and Poeticus, with single.

Jonquilles—Double and single.

Ranunculus—Large double red and yellow Turkey, and other varieties.

Anemones—Many fine mixed and named varieties.

Iris—English, Persian, Spanish and Susinna.

Crocus—White, blue, purple, yellow, cloth of gold, striped, &c. in 25 sorts.

Gladiolus—Bizantium communis, with purple, red and white flowers; Cardinalis.

Lilies—Double and single white, striped leaved, and spotted; Calcidonica, Buliferum, Martigon, Kampschatkian, Aurantica, &c.

Pæonies—Double white Chinese, double red do., double red and double white, double purple fringed, fennel-leaved, &c.

Also—Snow Drops, Amaryllis, Tuberoses, Ornitholigums of all sorts, Arum dracunculus, Geranium tuberosum, Allium flavum, Hyacinthus monstrosus, plamosus, botrioides and Belgicus of sorts; Fritillarias, Cyclamens, &c.

The above choice collection of bulbs have been selected with much care, from one of the best houses in Holland, and are offered to purchasers with great confidence, believing they will give universal satisfaction to all who will give them a fair trial. Orders should be forwarded soon, to the subscriber, No. 52 North Market Street, office of the New England Farmer. A liberal discount will be made to dealers.

October 23. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

ROHAN POTATOES,

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, No. 52 North Market Street, at 65 per barrel.

October 16. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

WANTED.

From 5 to 10 tons of *Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel and Sugar Beets.* Apply at C. N. HARTSHORN, corner of Washington Street, and Pleasant Street.

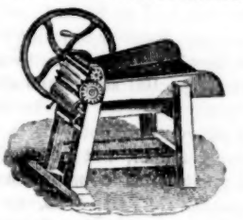
Boston, December 13, 1839. 2t

VEGETABLE CUTTER.

Willis's New Improved Vegetable Cutter. This machine is calculated for cutting up vegetables and esculent roots for fodder, and is one of the most useful and economical machines that the farmer can use. The subscribers feel great confidence in recommending this machine to the public; they are aware that it has been long wanted and they now offer a machine that cannot fail to give satisfaction upon a fair trial. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels per minute, in the best possible manner, and is not liable to get out of order, being made in the most substantial manner. No farmer should be without one of them. For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse, 51 and 52 North Market Street.

December 18. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.



JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it very efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

BONE MANURE.

The subscriber informs his friends and the public, that after ten years experience, he is fully convinced that ground bones form the most powerful stimulant that can be applied to the earth as a manure

He keeps constantly on hand a supply of Ground Bone, and solicits the patronage of the agricultural community. Price at the Mill 35 cents per bushel; put up in casks and delivered at any part of the city at 40 cents per bushel, and no charge for casks or carting

Also, ground Oyster Shells

Orders left at the Bone Mill, near Tremont road, in Roxbury, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, No 52 North Market Street, or through the Post Office will meet with prompt attention

NAHUM WARD.

A RARE CHANCE.

For sale. A partner wishing to withdraw from an old established Agricultural Implement and Seed Warehouse, having a good run of country custom, would be willing to dispose of his interest on liberal terms, as he is about engaging in other pursuits. To a person wishing to engage in a respectable and profitable business, having some ready capital, it is an opportunity rarely to be met with. A liberal credit will be given on most of the purchase money if properly secured. Any communications addressed "Lafayette," New York city, will be treated strictly confidential.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

CORRECTED WITH GREAT CARE, WEEKLY.

		From	To
Alum, American,	pound	5	5½
Ashes, Pearl, per 100 lbs.		5 00	5 25
Pot, " " "		4 75	5 00
Beans, white, Foreign,	bushel	1 62	2 00
" " Domestic,	"	2 00	2 00
Beef, mess,	barrel	14 00	14 50
No. 1.	"	12 00	12 50
prime,	"	10 00	10 50
Beeswax, white,	pound		
yellow,	"	28	35
Bristles, American,	"	35	70
Butter, shipping,	"	11	13
dairy,	"	17	20
Candles, mould,	"	13	14
dipped,	"		
sperm,	"	40	42
Cheese, new milk,	pound	10	
Cider,	dozen	1 50	1 75
refined,	barrel	2 50	4 50
Bone Manure,	bushel		35
in casks,	"		40
Feathers, northern, geese,	pound		
southern, geese,	"	37	46
Flax, (American)	"	9	12
Fish, Cod, Grand Bank,	quintal	2 25	2 50
Bay, Chaleur,	"	2 12	2 25
Haddock,	"	1 25	1 50
Mackerel, No. 1	barrel	11 25	11 50
No. 2,	"	9 25	9 50
No. 3,	"	6 00	6 25
Alewives, dry salted, No. 1.	"	6 00	6 25
Salmon, No. 1,	"	22 00	23 00
Flour, Genesee, cash,	"	6 37	6 50
Baltimore, Howard street,	"		6 50
Richmond canal,	"		6 37
Alexandria wharf,	"		
Rye,	"	4 00	4 25
Meal, Indian, in bbls.	"	4 00	4 12
Grain: Corn, northern yellow,	bushel		85
southern flat, yellow,	"	70	71
white,	"	64	65
Rye, northern,	"	75	80
Barley, nominal	"	75	80
Oats, northern, (prime)	"	42	45
southern, new,	"	33	35
Grindstones, pr ton of 2000 lbs. rough,		18 00	20 00
do. do. do. finished,		28 00	30 00
Hams, northern,	pound	9	10
southern and western,	"	7	8
Hay, best English, per ton,		16 00	18 00
Eastern screwed,		10 00	12 00
Hops, 1st quality,	pound	17	19
2d quality,	"		
Lard, Boston,	"	9	10
southern,	"	7	9
Leather, Philadelphia city tannage	"	29	30
do. country do.	"	25	27
Baltimore city tannage,	"	26	28
do. dry hides,	"	24	25
New York red, light,	"	21	23
Boston, do. slaughter,	"	21	22
Boston dry hides,	"	20	22
Lime, best sort,	cask	85	90
Molasses, New Orleans,	gallon	27	30
Sugar House,	"	50	55
Oil, Sperm, Spring,	"	1 10	1 12
Winter,	"		1 20
Whale, refined,	"	50	55
Linseed, American,	"	67	70
Neat's Foot,	"	95	
Plaster Paris, per ton of 2200 lbs.		2 87	3 00
Pork, extra clear,	barrel	18 00	
clear,	"	17 00	
Mess,	"	14 00	
Prime,	"	12 00	
Seeds: Herd's Grass,	bushel	2 50	3 00
Red Top, southern,	"	50	1 00
northern,	"		1 50
Canary,	"	2 25	2 50
Hemp,	"	2 25	2 50
Flax,	"	1 37	1 62
Red Clover, northern,	pound	16	18
Southern Clover, none,	"		
Soap, American, Brown,	"	7	8
" Castile,	"	12	13
Tallow, tried,	"	10	11
Teazles, 1st sort,	pr M.	2 50	3 00
Wool, prime, or Saxony Fleeces,	pound		
American, full blood, washed,	"		
do. 3-4ths do.	"		
do. 1-2 do.	"		
do. 1-4 and common,	"		
Northern pulled. Pulled superfine,	"		
No. 1,	"		
No. 2,	"		
No. 3,	"		

MISCELLANEOUS.

MR MADISON'S HOMESTEAD.

A letter in the Madisonian gives the following interesting account of a visit to Montpelier:—

Montpelier is situated on the west side of the Green mountains, twentyseven miles NNE. of Charlottesville, in the county of Orange, which adjoins Albemarle on the north. Within ten miles of Montpelier you reach Barboursville, the residence of the Hon. James Barbour, late Governor of Virginia. The Governor's farm comprises about 5000 acres of land, and produces 2000 bushels of wheat, 1000 bushels of corn, keeps 150 head of cattle, 300 sheep, 200 hogs, and 50 horses. There is a fine dwelling house, and numerous and commodious out buildings, besides cabins for the Governor's 200 blacks, of the most comfortable construction.

The Madison mansion is an oblong brick building of two stories, besides the basement, with a portico on the east and west, each extending the height and length of the building, and a wing of one story, and a basement at each extremity, with a turret on each. The main body of the house was built by Mr Madison's father. The wings were added by Mr M. A beautiful lawn, containing about eight acres, opens from the eastern portico, and is bordered by rows of lofty trees.

We need but look into the interior of the dwelling to observe how exactly every thing accorded with the exalted taste and intellect as well as religious character, for which Mr Madison was distinguished. You observe a great variety of busts, paintings and prints, have been chosen to decorate his abode. Among the number, you will see some old Flemish paintings, representing our Saviour's death, burial and passion, and other scenes from Scripture history. Here are busts of all the Presidents down to Jackson exclusive; and among others, Paul Jones, Emperor Alexander, Lafayette, Barlow, Gallatin, Clay, &c. In his valuable library you will find a just mixture of law, politics, history, belles lettres, poetry, science, philosophy and divinity; and among other works upon the latter subject, you will observe, justly conspicuous, the productions of Jonathan Edwards, Witherspoon, Gill, Doddridge, &c. From such sources, no doubt, he derived valuable aids to those reflections which determined those exemplary moral habits characteristic of his useful life.

Mr Madison's Reports of the Debates of the Convention that formed the Constitution, it is generally known, were purchased by Congress of Mrs Madison, for $30,000, and the three large volumes they will compose, are expected soon to be published. The original writings of Mr Madison, now principally in unpublished manuscripts, are far more voluminous than the Debates, and many of them are his most valued productions.

The surviving relatives of Mr Madison, now living at Montpelier, we may be permitted to say, are Mrs Madison, who, although advanced in life, retains that dignity and affability of manner, and that equableness and serenity of temper, that gave such a charm to the house of her husband, whether in public or in domestic life; Mr Paine Todd, who was private Secretary of the Commissioners of Ghent, and Miss Paine, a neice of Mr M. These form the whole of this happy and delightful family, who are seldom left to enjoy exclusive retirement, even if it were desirable, and the social and hospitable character of Mrs Madison always attracting numbers of intelligent visiters, to whom her house is ever freely open.

The remains of Mr Madison lie in the adjacent family cemetry, with those of his father and his mother by his right side, and room on his left for those who may follow him. Many relatives are interred within the same enclosure, which is covered with box and ornamental trees, and the whole surrounded by a neat brick wall. The father of Mr Madison died when Mr M. first entered on his duties as Mr Jefferson's Secretary of State. The mother survived till within a few years of the death of her son. She was a remarkable woman, and resembled her son in mind and appearance.

The plantation embraces about 1800 acres of unbroken, rich and arable land, of the chocolate color. It was the patrimonial estate of Mr Madison's father, who lived and died upon it. The soil has been cultivated for nearly a century without manuring, and still it produces abundantly. Its crops have often amounted to 24 hhds. of tobacco, worth $200 per hogshead; 4000 bushels wheat; 6000 bushels of corn, besides flax, hemp, and all kinds of vegetables, and a large quantity of the choice fruits. There are about 100 head of cattle, mostly of the North Devonshire breed, and a few of the Durham. The former are thought to produce the most superior working oxen, the latter the best cows. There are, perhaps, two dozen horses, 50 hogs, 100 sheep, and quantities of poultry.

Mr Madison was not only a great statesman and a good farmer, but a tasteful horticulturist. He took great pains to procure and cultivate the richest fruits of all sorts, and the fruitery bears delicious evidence of the success. The beautiful walk through the garden of four acres, has become a bower of fruit trees, the limbs endearingly interlocking overhead. Verily, Shenstone might have envied it.

Who, therefore, has better illustrated by his life the entire compability of the pursuits of statesmanship and agriculture, and of the studies of politics and religion, than the Father of the American Constitution?

"Truth; not the words of a Magistrate," was his excellent motto. Let "modern democrats" and "modern whigs" profit by his example.

MYSTERIES OF THE KITCHEN.—I know that I run no small risk of being accused of Spartan barbarism when I assert that a knowledge of the *art culinaria* should form part of every young lady's education. Half a century hath hardly elapsed since the cook-shop was as regularly visited, even by the daughters of the higher class of gentry, as the music academy—and I am free to assert that the march of refinement in this instance hath been rather retrogradish and crab-like. No female can be injured, and many may be essentially benefited by the study. An officer's wife for instance, who hath accompanied her husband to the seat of war, may greatly add to their mutual comfort in the absence of domestics. In a mercantile community, how many a man by reverse of fortune is compelled as an emigrant to seek his fortune in some new and unpeopled country, and who will assert that his wife would be the worse of being able to dress the wild fowl or venison which her husband's rifle had supplied? In the back woods of Canada, a sauce pan is worth a dozen pianos and whole legion of guitars.

I do not say that you should teach a woman rope-dancing, because she may possibly elope with the manager of a circus. But I would have her educated so as to meet all the probable exigencies and vicisitudes of life.

CHARGES OF MARRIAGE.—When people talk of the expenses of a married establishment, they seem to forget the fact, that there is no housekeeper equal to a wife. She is a man's best and most faithful steward; and unless she have expensive tastes, or habits of extravagance, will make a pound go father than five could do with a bachelor: I lately saw a case in point. A gentleman who, from mistaken motives of prudence, declines to change his condition, made lately at my request, an abstract of his household expenditure for a year, and it exceeded considerably the outlay for the same period of another friend who is married, and who in like manner furnished me with the data I required. I may add, that both parties move in a manner becoming their condition. Men are proverbially bad managers—and even admitting that their domestics are faithful, still the *motive* for economy is wanting, and without a motive, nothing effectual can be accomplished in this or in any other matter.

AFFECTION.—"I speak as I feel," returned Clifford; "were the woman I love suffering through poverty, I would beg with her, if I could not relieve her; through injustice I would defend her; from unkindnes I would protect her; and if the world forsook her, I would be to her the world."

WELLES'S PREMIUM FOR APPLES.

At a meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, held in August last, it was

Voted, That a first Premium of *thirty dollars* be awarded on the second Saturday of January, 1840, for the best specimen of Apples, produced on or before that time from seedling trees, which shall have been brought into notice since the year 1829.

That a second Premium of *twenty dollars*, and a third Premium of *ten dollars*, be awarded at the same time for the two next best similar specimens.

That the quantity of each shall not be less than four dozen.

The Committee on Fruits are particularly requested to meet at the Rooms of the Society on Saturday, the 11th day of January next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of awarding the Premiums above mentioned, also for awarding the Premiums on Fruits for the year 1839.

E. M. RICHARDS, *Chairman*.

December 18. 4t

IMPROVED PIGS FOR SALE.

For sale three, improved Boars of the following breeds;

One half Berkshire and half Macky.

One half Berkshire, quarter Macky and quarter Mocha.

One half Berkshire and half a large English breed, name not known.

The above boars are two years old; they are disposed of on account of keeping young sows of their get for breeders. They will be sold cheap if applied for soon. For terms, &c. apply to J. BRECK & CO.

November 13.

DOMESTICATED WILD GEESE.

A few pair for sale. Inquire at this office.

November 6.

THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER

Is published every Wednesday Evening, at $3 per annum payable at the end of the year—but those who pay within sixty days from the time of subscribing are entitled to a deduction of 50 cents.

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